recover the outstanding dues of CIL from power utilities:

(i) Ministry of Coal has advised coal companies to supply coal to power houses only against advance payments or Letters of Credit

(ii) Ministry of Power and Ministry of Coal are holding periodical discussions with State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to clear outstanding dues of coal companies.

(iii) Coal Companies are also holding discussions with the SEBs to reconcile the outstanding dues and persuade them to make payments.

Trade with African Countries

3503. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alongwith trade with South Africa, other landlocked frontline countries of the Continent like Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia will also offer markets for Indian goods; and

(b) if so, whether Government have explored this aspect of trade with South Africa and if so, the result of such exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the lifting of trade embargo with South Africa and the steps being taken by the Government to boost exports to that country, India's trade with the landlocked frontline countries like Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia is already showing an upwards trend.

Import of Caustic Soda-Flakes/Solids/Lye

3504. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Caustic Soda-flakes/Solids/Lye are being imported; and

(b) if so, the quantity imported during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 and Cost Interest Freight (CIF) rates per MT. thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In terms of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, import of Caustic Soda Flakes-Solids/Lye is freely allowed.

(b) A statement indicating the import of Sodium hydronide (Caustic Soda), both quantity and value wise, during the 1992-93 and 1993-94 is enclosed (*see* below) cost interest freight (CIF) rates vary from consignment to consignment.

Statement

Qty. Tonnes
Value: Rs. lakhs

Description	1992-93		1993-9 (P)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1. Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic Soda) *Solid*				
(a) Flakes	923	130.12	4076	121.53
(b) Other than Flakes	2429	283.32	19529	757.33
2. Inaqueous solution (Soda lye or liquid soda)	61005	3052.50	89896	3677.22

P= Provisional Figures.
Source= DGCI&S, Calcutta.